

2008
CHAMPIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP
AND GREEN GOVERNMENT AWARD WINNERS

U.S. National Park Service
Kenai Fjords National Park

Since 2004, Kenai Fjords National Park has taken a very active role with regards to climate change. The park has been a showcase for demonstrating the profound impacts of climate change. We have hosted high profile delegations including a visits by: Senators Clinton, McCain, Graham, and Collins (2005); Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and the U.S. Conference Mayors (2005, 2006), the Union of Concerned Scientists (2008), the Nature Conservancy (2008), Harvard University's Science and Religion Alaska Expedition (2007); and a delegation from the Diet of Japan (2007). Such visits have given us the opportunity to showcase our hybrid alternative energy (hydrogen fuel and propane technologies) at the Exit Glacier facilities, and have also provided the impetus for the park to develop a very robust series of interpretive programs on climate change and its profound impacts to the park and the Gulf of Alaska. Kenai Fjords National Park was one of the first parks to post a climate change podcast on iTunes.

For fiscal years 2006 and 2007, Kenai Fjords National Park has taken the extraordinary step of procuring enough Renewable Energy Certificates (RECS) to offset 100% of its fossil fuel burning activities including air travel, heating, electricity, and all vessel and vehicle use. Through this exercise, the park, the National Park Service, and the Department of Interior have learned a lot of about carbon offsets and the carbon market. Park Superintendent Mow has provided a number of presentations regarding these purchases to NPS, DOI, and the Alaska State/Federal Climate Change Roundtable. Armed with knowledge gained from purchasing RECs, the park recently met with City of Seward and was successful in reversing their position on net metering and the development of residential renewable energy projects. The NPS will take a lead role with the community to support the City's development of a net metering program.

In 2007, the park initiated the idea of developing a carbon offset for the 140,000 visitors that travel by tourboats. In collaboration with the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, Bonneville Environmental Foundation(BEF), and the local tourboat operators, the first mini-greentags for park visitors became available. Modeled after BEF's Ski Green program, all 3 tourboat companies in Seward sell the Greentags online and onboard. The Tour Green program has Alaska content and the funds are just now being made available for renewable energy project development in the state.

KEFJ purchased **hybrid vehicles** in both 2006 and 2007, and in 2008 will purchase its first electric vehicle (NEV). Also in 2008, the park was able to meet its increased transportation needs by using the commercial SVO shuttle bus service to Exit Glacier as a way to move employees from worksite to worksite. While the results haven't been tabulated, it certainly reduced the use of our own park vehicles. Also in 2008, the park hosted a commute challenge that resulted in a reduction of over 1600 miles of vehicle use.

Kenai Fjords National Park is committed to doing more to reduce its carbon emissions than simply purchasing RECs. In 2008 Kenai Fjords National Park completed its initial assessment to be certified in the EPA sponsored Climate Friendly Parks Program. The park is also the first NPS unit to sign-on with the Federal Green Challenge.

Energy Reduction Measurement: Based on the FY2007 figures for energy and transportation, through the use of RECs, Kenai Fjords National Park has reduced or offset 100% of the park's fossil-fuel burning activities which generated approximately **468 tons of carbon**.

Group Award to the entire Kenai Fjords National Park Staff.